

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

1 - 28 February 2019

In early February, [clashes in South Sudan led to a new influx of refugees into DRC](#), particularly in the Kakwa and Kaliko chiefdoms in Aru Territory, Ituri Province.

[Arrivals of Central African refugees slowed down](#) compared to January. In February, 30 crossed into Ndu, Bas Uele Province, in addition to 235 who crossed in January.

[UNHCR's cash assistance for IDPs, returnees and refugees in DRC grew considerably in 2018](#), with USD 3.4 million spent. This is a 261% increase from 2017 and an 882% increase from 2016.

## Refugees

### Burundian refugees

Total in DRC

43,025

*As of 28 February 2019*

- [UNHCR's partner ActionAid distributed 333 school kits](#) to primary and secondary school students at Mulongwe settlement, South Kivu Province.
- [Two football fields, two basketball fields and a dancing area were finalised](#) in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement to benefit both Burundian refugees and local youth as part of UNHCR's Sports for Protection project, funded by the International Olympic Committee.
- [UNHCR's partner AIDES began enrolling into a health insurance scheme the entire Burundian registered urban refugee population located in Bukavu comprised of 270 individuals](#). The insurance will cover most of their medical expenses throughout 2019.
- [UNHCR's partner AIRD provided construction materials for 104 households](#) to build individual shelters at Mulongwe settlement. The families were living in communal dormitories, in need of better housing conditions.
- [UNHCR and partner ADES provided 106 households with latrine and shower construction kits](#) at Mulongwe settlement, while partner AFPDE completed the construction of 11 latrine blocks in Lusenda camp.
- [In February 3,444 medical consultations were recorded in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement](#). 561 children were vaccinated, 491 women received antenatal care and 63 births were registered.
- [UNHCR conducted three monitoring visits to detained Burundian refugees in South Kivu](#). Among the 23 detainees at Uvira Central Prison, three were released thanks to the intervention of a law firm working in partnership with UNHCR.
- [Seven awareness raising workshops on Sexual and Gender-based Violence \(SGBV\) were organized](#) by UNHCR-supported SGBV committees in Lusenda camp and Mulongwe settlement. 911 participants took part; 202 men, 252 women, 248 girls and 209 boys.
- [The Monge-Monge Transit Center for Burundian asylum-seekers was renovated](#) in early February, with a reinforced perimeter wall for enhanced security. Due to bad weather, some parts of the compound and some community hangars had been damaged, exposing asylum-seekers to insecurity and protection risks.

## Central African refugees

Total in DRC

172,403

As of 28 February 2019

- **Arrivals of Central African refugees slowed down compared to January.** 30 crossed into Ndu, Bas Uele Province, DRC, from the Central African Republic, in addition to 235 who crossed in January, according to migration authorities. 65 were awaiting pre-registration, while the remaining 200 already held refugee status from a previous displacement.



Women sewing at the tailoring centre of Inke camp, Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/G. Nentobo

- As part of an operation aiming to provide documentation to 21,855 biometrically registered refugees in Nord Ubangi Province, **UNHCR made attestations available for 10,088 refugees in Lembo and Kambo localities.** The refugees had been biometrically registered in 2017 but had not received documentation from the Government. In 2018, 13,924 refugees had already received attestations in Yakoma and Mobayi Mbongo in a separate operation.

- **UNHCR's partner ADSSE distributed 648 packs of Makapad sanitary pads to 312 Central African refugee pupils** in Inke camp and 22 local pupils. Sessions will be held monthly on their use and on menstrual hygiene.

- In February, **UNHCR and partner ADES handed over two boreholes to authorities of the refugee-hosting towns of Limasa and Gbadolite**, in Nord Ubangi Province. Limasa hosts 2,282 Central African refugees and Gbadolite 10,683. Only river water had been used in Limasa so far, resulting in health risks, while the central market of Gbadolite did not have a water source. The boreholes will benefit both refugees and locals.



Borehole being handed over by UNHCR's partner ADES in Limasa, Nord Ubangi Province. © UNHCR/G. Nentobo

- As part of the fight against Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), **UNHCR's partner AIDES provided bicycles, megaphones, batteries, notebooks and reporting forms to local SGBV committees** in 6 refugee-hosting localities in Nord Ubangi Province. This is to allow them to better undertake SGBV monitoring and reporting.
- On 13 February, a local peace committee, set up by UNHCR and made up of refugees and locals, organised a sensitisation session on peaceful coexistence in Bili camp. 238 people (137 women and 101 men) participated. In Bosobolo Territory, Nord Ubangi Province, **the main source of conflict between refugees and the host community is the use of natural resources** such as heating and construction wood, or mushrooms. This can sometimes lead to refugees being barred from accessing the bush by locals.

## Rwandan refugees

Total in DRC (figure based on a pre-registration done by the DRC government in 2013-14)	Repatriated this month (figure pending verification)	Repatriated in 2019 (figure pending verification)
<b>216,857</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>130</b>

As of 28 February 2019

- **179 Rwandan refugees were repatriated from North and South Kivu.** Figures are provisional, pending a final verification on the Rwandan side. Sensitization messages on voluntary repatriation were aired on 14 radio stations in North and South Kivu.
- **UNHCR published a final report on the large-scale registration operation of Rwandan refugees** in North and South Kivu provinces. During two phases of the operation, from 2015 to 2018, UNHCR biometrically registered a total of 76,067 Rwandan refugees. The [French version](#) is also online.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES began enrolling into a health insurance scheme the Rwandan registered urban refugee population located in Bukavu comprised of 842 individuals.** The insurance will cover most of their medical expenses and ensure access to healthcare throughout 2019.
- **14 Rwandan urban refugees received supplies to continue a training in income-generating activities in 2019,** such as sewing and car mechanics. The refugees had begun this activity in December 2018. UNHCR and partner AIDES will provide start-up kits once the training is completed.

## South Sudanese refugees

Total in the DRC

**97,320**

As of 28 February 2019

- In February, **the number of South Sudanese refugees in DRC increased.** Clashes in South Sudan led to a new influx of refugees into DRC in early February, particularly in the Kakwa and Kaliko chiefdoms in Aru Territory, Ituri Province. In line with requests from the authorities to provide assistance further away from the border in Ituri province, UNHCR during the month of February organized the transfer of 985 newly-arrived refugees to Biringi settlement near Aru town, Ituri Province, where additional community and family shelters, as well as sanitation infrastructures were built.



This mother of two [left] arrived in DRC, fleeing fresh violence in South Sudan. Her husband stayed behind with their other child. © UNHCR/C. Lopes

- Following a security incident at Meri settlement, Haut Uele Province, in November 2018, and the subsequent suspension of cash-for-food activities led by the World Food Programme (WFP), a contract was signed on 18 February between UNHCR, WFP, the national refugee commission (CNR) and refugee representatives, agreeing that **assistance will resume under the condition of staff security, and for a limited time, while UNHCR designs a self-reliance programme.**

- On 26 February, **UNHCR and WFP launched a joint analysis of the markets frequented by South Sudanese refugees** living at Meri and Biringi settlements, with the aim of possibly revising the amount of WFP's cash-for-food assistance. The analysis will evaluate criteria such as physical accessibility, availability of food, prices and product quality.

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## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

On 14 August 2018, UNHCR declared an internal **L2 emergency in North Kivu and Ituri provinces**. This allows UNHCR to use emergency procedures in view of the displacement and returns in Ituri Province, and ongoing displacement in North Kivu Province.

### Ituri Province

- On the shores of Lake Albert in Djugu Territory, Ituri Province, **4,734 people (928 households) were newly displaced** according to UNHCR's partner INTERSOS. Away from coastal areas, stabilization led to the **return of an estimated 11,090 people** from various localities, according to UNHCR's partners INTERSOS and Caritas.
- In Ituri Province, UNHCR's partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed **dignity kits to 6,000 women and girls, \$30 cash vouchers for 4,899 people to buy Non-Food Items (NFIs)** at a fair organized by DRC, and **shelter construction kits to 2,943 people**. All beneficiaries were returned or displaced people.



Distribution of shelter materials in Ituri Province. © UNHCR

### North Kivu Province

- **The security situation in Beni Territory remained extremely volatile** due to continued armed attacks, including against Ebola health workers. **The situation in Masisi Territory also showed a sharp deterioration since mid-January.**
- In the first week of February, UNHCR's partners CNR and INTERSOS, as well as two local NGOs, **conducted a protection assessment in four localities of Lubero Territory after receiving an alert of possible mass returns.** As a result, local authorities confirmed the return of 83,661 persons to these locations between November and January. 51 children released from armed groups and 40 unaccompanied children were identified among them. Protection incidents were recorded and referred to a local NGO, and a lack of PEP kits was identified. Advocacy was made to local health authorities who are currently sending new PEP kits.
- In February, UNHCR's protection monitoring system recorded 127 protection incidents in Beni Territory, including two sexual assaults.
- **UNHCR's partner AIDES finalized a shelter project for IDPs and returnees in Beni, Masisi and Lubero territories.** A total of 3,126 material kits and 312 tool kits for shelter construction were distributed to beneficiaries, either through cash transfers or directly. Altogether **3,180 households (21,470 persons)** benefitted from this shelter assistance.

### South Kivu Province

- As part of the ongoing CERF-funded shelter project by UNHCR and partner NRC, **15 households received land and started constructing shelters** in Fizi Territory, after UNHCR negotiated with local authorities. The overall target is of 3,246 households.
- From 5 to 12 February, UNHCR took part in the mission to **set up a Local Inter-Organizational Committee (CLIO)** in Kindu, Maniema Province.

## Kasai region

- UNHCR's protection monitoring showed an **increase in human rights violations** in Kamonia, Luebo and Tshikapa territories, Kasai Province. 409 incidents were documented, as opposed to 191 in January. This can partly be explained by armed group violence in Kamonia and Luebo territories, but also by the resumption of UNHCR's protection monitoring activities in these areas after a halt during the election period. **189 victims were women and children**, or 46%, and 39 were children, or 9%, a majority of whom suffered SGBV. Most of the overall victims were IDPs and returnees, followed by 120 Congolese expelled from Angola.
- Half of cases (203) were **violations of the right to property**, followed by 71 violations of the right to life or physical integrity, 56 violations of the right to freedom, and 55 cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).
- UNHCR and its partner War Child followed up on 363 cases, or 88%. **All 10 rape survivors received PEP kits within 72 hours, and 6 arbitrarily-arrested people were released.**
- As part of its strategic planning for 2020-21, UNHCR consulted with IDPs, returnees and host community members in Kananga, Tshikapa and Mbuji-Mayi towns to discuss priorities. The evaluation took into consideration age, gender and diversity criteria. In Kananga (Kasai Central Province) and Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental Province) **education and vocational training** were reported as priorities. In Tshikapa (Kasai Province), **shelter, food security, health, education and peaceful coexistence** were priorities.

## Tanganyika / Haut-Katanga Provinces

- **A cash-for-shelter project promoting local construction methods was underway in Kalemie Territory**, Tanganyika Province, benefitting 600 returnee households, including 100 extremely vulnerable ones. In February, households manufactured adobe bricks, UNHCR and partner AIRD will also provide building materials. Sensitization sessions were held to encourage community participation.
- From 4 to 6 February, **UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance to 1,055 returnee households in Kalemie Territory**. This included the 600 households receiving shelter support. Cash assistance enables them to spend according to their own priorities.
- To support the peaceful character of returns in Tanganyika Province, **UNHCR and its partner AIDES organised participative theatre plays on conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence** in IDP sites and return areas in Kalemie Territory, targeting 1,170 individuals (279 men, 338 women, 240 boys and 313 girls) .
- **UNHCR and its partner AIDES organized 26 sensitization sessions on preventing and responding to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)** in displacement and return areas that were particularly prone to this type of violence. 1,114 IDPs and returnees participated in four territories of Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga Provinces.
- **AIDES registered 14 cases of SGBV in February** in localities of Kalemie, Nyunzu and Pweto territories in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga provinces – that is one every two days. Kalemie Territory alone accounted for 50% of cases. **Judicial response to SGBV remains an important gap.**

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# Statelessness

- As part of its efforts to prevent statelessness, **UNHCR built a new Civil Registry Office in Mulongwe village, South Kivu Province, to ease the issuance of birth certificates for Burundian refugees** living at Mulongwe settlement, as well as for host communities.
- After UNHCR met with the Civil Documentation and Prevention of Statelessness Working Group of North Kivu Province, **a provincial-level moratorium was renewed for a year** as of 15 February; it allows children from 90 days to 18 years old to receive birth certificates free of charge, even after the standard 90-day deadline has expired. This is expected to positively affect birth registrations in North Kivu Province in 2019.

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# Clusters and Working Groups

## Protection Cluster

- In its plenary monthly meeting in Kinshasa on 27 February, members of the Protection Cluster highlighted an increase in protection incidents related to the **surrender of armed groups** in Kasai and Kasai Central provinces, as they remain in urban centers while waiting for reintegration into local communities, and access to justice for victims. **Expulsions from Angola** also continued in the region, and the **presence of explosive remnants of war** caused a risk in certain zones.
- The Protection Cluster also highlighted the presence of **explosive remnants of war** needing clearance in South Kivu Province.

## Shelter Working Group

- The Shelter Working Group issued a [document](#) outlining the **vision and basic principles of the shelter sector's interventions in DRC**.

## Cash Working Group

- The National Cash Working Group made a 4W analysis of cash and voucher assistance in DRC in 2018; **at least 1.3 million people (256,000 households) received cash or voucher assistance in 2018**, amounting to over USD 23 million. 16% consisted in unconditional multipurpose cash assistance. Over 24 partners, NGOs and UN agencies delivered cash assistance.

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## External / Donor Relations

### As of 20th of March 2019

#### Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2019

United States of America (7 M) | Japan (2.5 M) | Sweden (2.2 M) | United Nations Foundation (0.43 M) | International Olympic Committee (0.27 M) | Miscellaneous private donors (0.62 M) | UNAIDS (0.03 M)

#### Major donors of regional or sub-regional or softly earmarked funds in 2019<sup>1</sup>

Germany (13.1 M) | United States of America (10 M) | Sweden (4 M)

#### Major donors of global unearmarked funds in 2019<sup>2</sup>

Sweden (90.4 M) | Norway (44.5 M) | Netherlands (37.5 M) | United Kingdom (31.7 M) | Germany (26.7 M) | Denmark (24.4 M) | Switzerland (15.1 M) | Private donors Spain (12.8 M)

## Contacts

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<sup>1</sup> Amounts of USD 2M and above are listed.

<sup>2</sup> Amounts of USD 2M and above are listed.



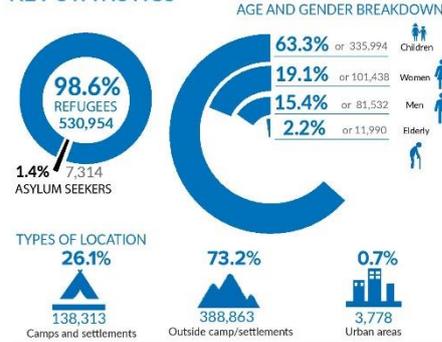
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO  
**DRC AT A GLANCE**

as of 28 February 2019

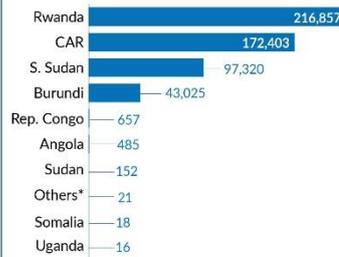
**538,268**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

KEY STATISTICS



REFUGEE POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

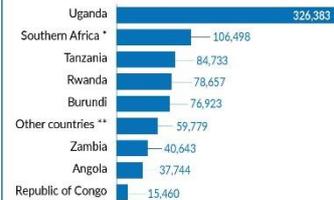


\* Others include Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Syria, Liberia, Chad and Sierra Leone.

REFUGEES FROM DRC IN AFRICA

**826,820**

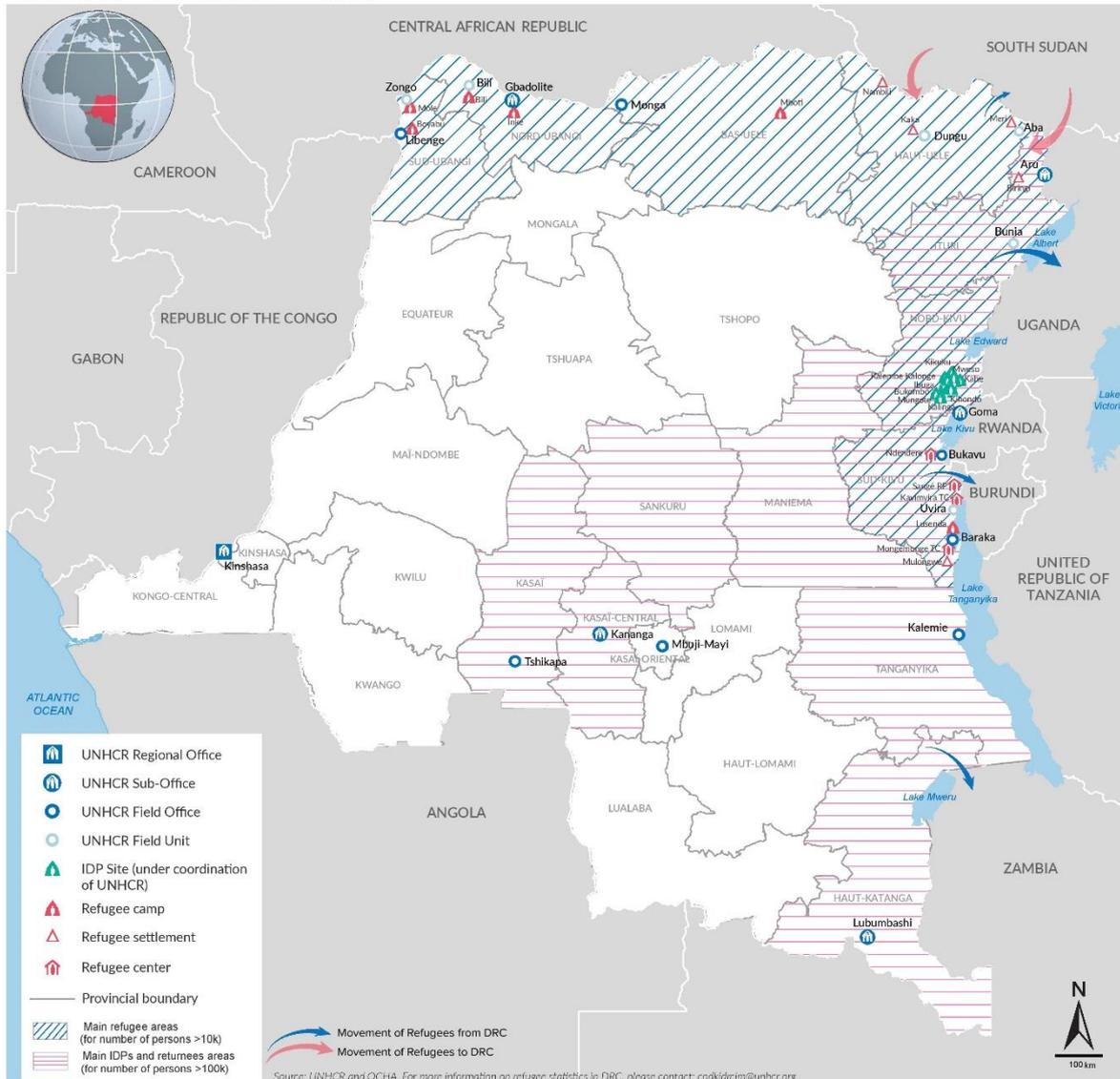
TOTAL DRC REFUGEE POPULATION



Source: UNHCR

\* Southern Africa includes Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar, RSA and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

\*\* Other countries include South Sudan, Kenya, Central African Republic and Chad



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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